GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:7
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
LINKING OF RIVERS
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to set up a task force on linking of rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring consensus among the States on linking of rivers;

(d) the estimated cost on linking of major rivers; and

(e) the sources through which the funds are proposed to be mobilised?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 7 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2002 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING LINKING OF RIVERS

The Supreme Court of India in the Writ PetitionNo.512 of 2002 on 30th September, 2002 directed Union of India to file an affidavit by 28th October, 2002. The Union of India in its Affidavit filed before the Court has stated that the Ministry of Water Resources has prepared a National Perspective Plan for Inter- linkingof rivers of the country for transferring water from waters surplus basins to water deficit basins and that a presentation on National Perspective Plan wasmade before the Hon'ble Prime Minister on Inter-linking of rivers on 5th October, 2002. It was also stated in the Affidavit that after the presentation it was suggested that a High Level Task Force can be formed which will go into the modalities for bringing out the consensus among the States.

A Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Departments from concerned States as members has already been constituted to discuss with the States for arriving at consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and the preparation of Detailed Project Reports by NWDA.The estimated cost of the linking of major rivers at 2002 price is Rs.5,60,000 crores. The High LevelTask Force which is proposed to be formed will look into this aspect also alongwith others and suggest modalities for project funding.